

St Mary's Catholic Church, Monmouth

& St. Frances of Rome, Ross-on-Wye

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8th December 2019

Mass Times & Intentions				
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A 8 th December 2019	Vigil Mass 6.00 pm	Mandy Alexander	Monmouth	
	9.15 am	People of the Parish	Monmouth	
	11.00 am	Geraldine O'Shea	Ross-on-Wye	
Monday	9 th	9.15 am	Gwen O'Leary <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	Monmouth
Tuesday	10 th	7.00pm	Private intention	Ross-on-Wye
Wednesday	11 th	9.15 am 9.45-10.45	Irene Derricott Holy Hour	Monmouth
Thursday	12 th	10.00 am	Holy Souls (*with school*)	Ross-on-Wye
Friday	13 th	9.15 am	Josephine Page <i>St Lucy</i>	Monmouth
Saturday morning Mass at Usk Prison Sacrament of Reconciliation: Monmouth: Saturday from 5.15-5.45 pm and Ross-on-Wye: Tuesday from 6.15-6.45 pm				
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A 15 th December 2019	Saturday 6.00 pm	Allcock & Hauser families	Monmouth	
	9.15 am	People of the Parish	Monmouth	
	11.00 am	Special intention	Ross-on-Wye	
Contributions to the newsletter to: stmarysrc.editor@gmail.com by 12 noon Thursday please stfrances.editor@gmail.com (St Frances of Rome, Ross-on-Wye)				

Make a road for him! Make it good and straight!
That message had echoed through the life of the Jewish people for hundreds of years by the time of John the Baptist, ever since it was first uttered in Isaiah 40. It was part of the great message of hope, of forgiveness, of healing for the nation after the horror of exile. God would at last come back, bringing comfort and rescue. Yes, John is saying: that's what's happening now. It's time to get ready! The king, God himself, is coming back! Get ready for God's kingdom! And John's striking message made everyone sit up and take notice. In today's language, they saw the blue flashing lights, and stopped what they were doing to get ready.

But the trouble was that they weren't ready, not by a long way. You may think your house is reasonably tidy and well kept, but if you suddenly get word that the king is coming to visit you may well suddenly want to give it another spring-clean. And the Jewish people, even the devout ones who worshipped regularly in the Temple, knew in their bones that they weren't ready for God to come back. The prophets had said that God would come back when the people repented, turning to him with all their hearts. That was what John summoned them to do; and they came in droves.

Tom Wright

Monmouth Collections

Gift Aid	Loose plate
£208.00	£402.27

Please remember in your prayers:

Joan Humphreys, James Boyle, Simon McGrath, Billy Mann, Sheila MacEwan, Jill Lloyd, Esther Gallagher, Bernadette Price, Liam O'Keefe, Margaret Kelly, Mary Iles, Arthur & Angela Barge, Duncan Wills, Nigel Poole, Olivia Sherrington, Honor Houghton, Pauline Collier, George Schandlinger, Helena Machin and all members of our parish who are sick and those who care for them.

Please remember also all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

CHILDREN'S ADVENT SERVICE

this Sunday 8th December

at 3.30 pm.

All parishioners are invited to come and join us

SVP - ADVENT TWIG: there was an immediate response to the appeal and all the labels were taken last weekend. Thank you for your prompt support.



A JOURNEY WITH ST PAUL

Continues on **Wednesday 18th December**

at 10 am in Monmouth. Getting to know the story of our Faith.

Please bring a (Jerusalem) bible. All are welcome.

MONMOUTH & DISTRICT FOOD BANK - new volunteers are needed to help in the Food Bank on Friday mornings, once a month. For further info please contact Mike Brain via email info@monmouthdistrict.foodbank.org.uk or phone: 07960 579062. Or contact Anne May: anne@themays.org.uk

FIRST COMMUNION 2020: Parents/Guardians of children who will be eligible to make their First Holy Communion next year, please contact Fr Nick.

HOLY HOUR IN ADVENT

Monmouth – Wednesday, 11 December from 9.45-10.45 am

Ross-on-Wye – Tuesday, 17 December from 7.30-8.30 pm.

CONFESSIONS

ROSS: Tuesday, 17 December from 7.30-8.00 pm

Thursday, 19 December from 10.45-11.15 am

MONMOUTH: Monday, 23 December from 7.00-8.00 pm

ADVENT JOURNEY IN WORDS AND MUSIC: Please join us at St Frances of Rome on **Friday 13th December** at 7 p.m. Refreshments afterwards in the Parish Room.



The **Christmas Hamper Raffle** is a replacement for our more traditional Autumn Fayre. It will be drawn next **Sunday December 15th**, after Mass. Raffle tickets still on sale at £1 each at the back of church, after Mass.

WORLD GIFTS: are CAFOD's alternative charity gifts that transform lives. Choose a unique, virtual gift from £4 that will make a real difference to a family living in poverty. Pick up a leaflet for more details. *"The true spirit of Christmas giving"*



Date	Eucharistic Minister	Reader	Welcomer
7 December 8 December	Val Field Chris Cherry	Sean Dunne Liz Alford	Don & Anne Harvey Juliet Sweeting
14 December 15 December	Ali Szwagrzak Frances Cloud	Peter Field Rosamund Vaughan	Shelagh Adams Fay McGrath

